

W.H. Harvey in New South Wales

Letters by the phycologist W.H. Harvey,
written in New South Wales in 1855

S.C. DUCKER

Ducker, S.C. W.H. Harvey in New South Wales. letters by the phycologist W.H. Harvey, written in New South Wales in 1855. *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W.* 115: 213-223 (1995).

The Irish Professor of Botany visits New South Wales in 1855 and writes a letter to his sister, Hannah Todhunter, and to the Tasmanian botanist, Robert Campbell Gunn. He describes Sydney, the people, and the Botanic Gardens.

S.C. Ducker, Botany School, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria, Australia 3052; manuscript received 17 September 1993, accepted for publication 17 December 1993.

KEYWORDS: W.H. Harvey, New South Wales, Sydney 1850, botany, phycology.

INTRODUCTION

The life of W.H. Harvey and his travels to the antipodes have been narrated in different publications (Fisher 1869; Praeger 1913; Webb 1966; Ducker 1988). So much is known about the man and his time through his letters, because Harvey was a most prolific letter writer. All his charm, his power of observation, his almost universal interests and most of all his love of life and nature are mirrored in his correspondence. In 1988 I published all the letters known to me about his travels to Australia and the Pacific. During a visit to Dublin in 1989 a new and recently-acquired bunch of Harvey letters was brought to my notice. They were letters addressed to members of his family in Dublin and were at the time forwarded to his sister-in-law in New York. Her initials are written on several of the letters. The provenance of the letters must have been clear to some *recent* descendants of this New York sister-in-law and they returned the letters to the Trinity College Library, which kindly gave me permission to publish them.

As little is known of Harvey's impressions of Sydney in 1855, two letters written by the traveller in New South Wales are reproduced here. Annotations are included only where necessary, as the majority of references to people and plants are covered in the earlier letters.

The first letter is written to Harvey's sister Hannah Harvey Todhunter (TCD 3640/24) with whom he made his home for many years. The majority of letters sent by Harvey while on his journey to the southern hemisphere were addressed to Hannah and were in the form of a diary.

The recipient of the second letter (from the Mitchell Library, Sydney) was Ronald Campbell Gunn (1808-1881), the resident botanist at Launceston, Tasmania. Gunn had inspired Harvey to visit Tasmania, and for this Harvey was grateful. In 1844, Gunn sent a packet of exciting seaweeds, including the beautiful and rare red algae *Claudia elegans*, to Professor William Hooker at Kew. The parcel was passed by Hooker to Harvey, who thus became aware of the rich Australian algal flora. While visiting Georgetown and Launceston during his Australian travels, Harvey became friendly with Gunn.

Both letters were written prior to Harvey's departure for the Pacific Islands. Harvey was consulted by Augustus Gregory about Ferdinand Mueller's suitability as an accompanying botanist for the scientific expedition to be mounted by the Imperial Government, and this important information is described in these letters. If anyone ever warranted trust and praise, it was Mueller. Little did anybody know, however, what hardships awaited members of the Gregory expedition in their traverse of the northern parts of Australia.

The rich harvest of plants collected by Mueller, including many new taxa, was early proof of his qualities.

THE LETTERS

NewCastle — New South Wales —

May 15th

1855 —

My dear Hannah,

As I have nothing particular to do this evening, I shall begin a journal letter, in continuation of my proceedings since I left Melbourne, from which I wrote last — I parted from friends Robinson & Unthank at the Queen's wharf, Melbourne on the 1st & went in a steam tender on board the 'Telegraph'¹ Steam ship lying in Hobson's Bay, which set sail about 2 hours afterwards & in 3 hours more we reached the Heads of Port Phillip of which I took a sunset farewell, on a fine evening with a smooth sea. — The Telegraph is the best ship on the line & we went at a spanking rate. — I soon 'turned in' as I never sit up long at sea & when I rose next morning was told, that we had passed Wilson's Promontory about 2 in the morning. — The Coast was in sight most of the day, which was very fine & warm. — About 4 P.M. we approached the dividing point between Victoria & New South Wales & passed the Cape shortly after sunset. — The shore is sandy with wooded mountains behind, at no great distance. — There is a bright light on the end of the Cape, a narrow sand spit running into the sea. — The night was fair — the moon at full & we went on rapidly. — About 8 passed the 'Wonga Wonga'¹ Steamer & let off rockets. —

Next morning 3rd opened in heavy rain & it rained heavily the greater part of the day, being what is called a 'black North Easter'. — We steamed close along the shore, but saw little save sandstone cliffs alternating with sandy beaches, black cloudy sky & bare open country. — I dare say that in sunshine it would have looked more inviting & possibly had I been ashore, I should have found it good botanizing ground. — In the afternoon, we passed the opening of Botany Bay — the rain ceased, the clouds continued — but the passengers came on deck to watch for Port Jackson, which we reached in about an hour afterwards. — The coast here is very grand & bold, reminding you of Kilkee² cliffs 2 to 300 ft high, quite perpendicular, with surf lashing their bases — a lighthouse is built on the South Head, I suppose at nearly 300 ft above sea. — the North Head is equally bold — The entrance is wider than I had anticipated & I wonder Cook³ should not have been tempted further in — for once within the Heads, the prospect is one of extreme beauty. — The Port itself is of vast extent, with deep water almost throughout & in most places close up to the shore, so that large vessels lie alongside *natural* quays — at all times of tide. — There are numerous arms & inlets & bays, stretching from all sides & their shores being moderately high & steep & well wooded, with occasional projecting rocks are very picturesque. — The views are varied very pleasingly & there are many & picturesque villas on the shores — small & large — *silver strands*. — green lawns, shrubberies &c — One of the most *grotesque* (rather than *picturesque*) trees is the Norfolk Island Pine,⁴ of which there are many large specimens all round Port Jackson & in the city of Sydney. — This tree is so perfectly formal & regular in its growth that it looks more like an artificial than a natural production & constantly reminds me of the little conical & (*comical*) green trees which are attached to the child's toy, called a sheep cot. — They have exactly this character when seen from a distance against the sky. — When you *approach* them, I admit, you lose the sense of formality in the beauty of the foliage. — It was quite dark when we reached the wharf & dark before I landed. — & the rain again set in. — A slushy & steep walk brought me to Petty's Hotel,⁵ on the top of Church Hill where I took up my quarters very comfortably. —

4th of May. — Rain continues this morning. — Nevertheless after breakfast, I walked to the Botanic Gardens & called on M^r Moore⁶ the Curator. — The Garden is within 1/2

mile of the town & within the limits of the 'City'. — It is part of the Gov^t Demesne and contains about 30 acres of beautifully diversified ground, fronting the bay. — The soil is very bad & shallow & difficult to cultivate, as it burns up quickly in dry weather, whereof there is much in this latitude. Last year many valuable shrubs & trees perished. — It was an unusually hot & dry summer — Just now all is green & juicy — as they have had very heavy rains for the last 6 weeks — There are not many flowers or small things in the garden, but its shrubberies are very beautiful & there are many Conifers cultivated. — Some of the larger Norfolk pines are over 100 feet high — also some fine *Cunninghamia* species & several species of *Dammara*⁷ (broad leaved tropical pines) introduced by M^r Moore. Many sub-tropical shrubs & some tropical ones do well but not so well as in other gardens near Sydney. — *Mangoes* bear fruit but are generally stolen before they are quite ripe. — The commoner Bananas ripen, but not the better kinds. — The grounds are chiefly laid out with broad walks & grass plots for promenade — but there is a small portion set aside for systematic arrangement both on Linnaen & Nat. Systems. — Moore gives an annual course of Elementary Lectures which he says are not well attended, nor much appreciated. — I should not expect them to be in a Colony where education is at such a low state as it is here — Among the prominent features of the garden, I must not omit 2 noble Ferns — *Platycerium Alcorni*⁸ & *P. Grande* the former common in the neighbourhood of Sydney — the latter an importation from the North. — You have no idea of their grandeur from the small specimens seen with you in cultivation. — They either stick on trees or rocks in huge masses. — In the garden is a monument to poor Cunningham⁹ the Botanist — & former curator, but just now in the midst of a pond of muddy water — After a couple of hours spent at the garden I returned to town to get my luggage (20 packages!!) landed & stored & saw them safely placed in a store at the Gardens, where I pay no storage. — Then through muddy streets & occasional showers hither & thither to make acquaintance with the town. — Sydney is built on a long tongue of land between two arms of the harbour & stands on hills & in vallies — Some of the streets are therefore steep. — Some are crooked & some are very broad or very narrow — The common building stone is a light coloured sand stone — easily worked & therefore the houses are usually fronted with cutstone. — Some are plaistered & built of brick — every one follows his own fancy in architecture, so that uniformity is the exception not the rule — big & little houses being constantly in juxtaposition — On Church Hill, where the hotel is, are three Churches of the three creeds of England, Scotland & Rome — The English Church is the oldest in the Colony & a very funny looking building — I took it at first for a Monastery belonging to the RC. Church adjoining — There is a round tower at one end — some off buildings & a little semi dome at the other (for the chancel) — A new Church of Gothic architecture & a handsome building is being built at a little distance, to replace the present one. — Beautiful views of the harbour with its various coves & arms may be had from various heights in the town. — Gov^t House, an extensive partly castellated, partly Palatial building stands in a well kept, but not extensive ornamental grounds facing the harbour & commanding a fine view of the Bot. Garden — & neighbouring points — with some of the shipping &c — Shops mostly good & English looking & many of the private houses handsome — Norfolk Island Pines are frequently planted before the doors in many parts of the town & have a quaint effect. — The streets are lighted by gas, but dimly the lamps few & far between. — On the whole I do not agree with the Lady I met at EagleHawk Neck, that 'Dublin is nothing to Sydney' —

In the evening I called on Dr Bennett,¹⁰ Author of *Wanderings in New South Wales* & a surgeon in large practice — having also a noble library of general literature & particularly of Illustrated works — a great many are Natural History to which he is attached as an Amateur & has contributed to various periodicals & authors much valuable information on the animals & plants seen in his travels. He it was who procured the first living Nautilus seen in England — & first kept Ornithorhynchi as pets &c. &c. His passion is books on which he spares no expense. Consequently every hole & corner of the house where a book can be stuck up or piled, there it is. The shelves are two or three deep of vols — Big folios

lie on tables & chairs — & there is scarcely more room than to turn about in the parlours. I was received very kindly & spent a pleasant evening, looking at pictures & talking of fifty different things.

5th May — It rained heavily almost the whole day which I spent chiefly at the botanic gardens arranging my luggage for the next campaign. When it rains here it pours & the streets are scarcely possible in many places.

6th — Was Sunday — showery in the morning — but a small glimpse of sky behind the clouds. Later in the day it rained heavily & sometimes *furiously*, & I was caught in the afternoon & glad to take refuge in an omnibus — into which shortly after got in 3 wet chinamen. I went to Church in the morning to the queer old building close at hand & heard a very low churchman — in the afternoon I walked some two miles to what I was told was a *Pussey*¹¹-cat Church, & was punished for my gadding by finding only a bald service with half a dozen persons in Church, a christening & a Churching — but no sermon — & a tremendous shower aforesaid. I ascertained afterwards that the regular evening service is at 7°C. to which I did not return.

7th — At last a fine day — but cloudy — The air close & warm. After breakfast I called & presented letters to the Gov^r Sir W^m Denison¹² — who received me very kindly — & after a few introductory words says ‘Well now, what can *I* do for you?’ whereupon I up & told him my plans that I wished to go to some of the Northern parts, where I looked for letters to the Port Officers to supply me with boats &c. But said ‘I have just heard that there is a Missionary ship going to visit some of the Islands in the Pacific & I think I shall try for a passage in her for the cruise’. ‘Why not go in H.M.S. Herald’, saith he, ‘she is going the same route & will be surveying & knocking about among the islands &c’. So he gave me a letter to the Captain Denham & ordered me a man of war’s boat & crew to take me on board the Herald, now lying at Watson’s bay near the harbour’s mouth. After seeing the Gov^r I went in search of Mr Gregory the head of an exploring Expedition soon to be sent to the North and I counted to talk to him about Dr. Mueller, who wishes to go as botanist I was directed to ‘6 Hunter St’ So seeing *No 5* on the door, I enquired at the next house if it was *No 6* — ‘No — this is *No 7* — Then pray where is *No 6*? — Oh — no 6 is moved *to the other end of the street* (quarter of a mile off), where, after a search I found it — but did not find Mr G. — I then returned to Hotel for Lunch & thence went to the Wharf, to go on board H.M.S. *Juno*, in whose cutter I was to be sent on board the Herald. Politely received by the gun room officers, & after a delay — we set out in the cutter for the Herald. By this time there was a strong wind blowing & clean against us & our distance was 7 or 8 miles — so we had many tacks to make before we reached the vessel & then it was nearly dusk. When we got there we ascertained that Captain Denham was living with some friends on shore, at one of the villas on the harbour — & so we again set [ed. note: Fig. 1 shows the manuscript from this point] off (the Middy & I) in the boat to seek him. We landed at two or three wrong villas but at last found the right one. In our scramble through the bush I first made acquaintance *Epacris Grandiflora* & *Crowea saligna*¹³ (well known green house plants) in a native state. Both are very lovely as they spring up among the mossy rocks. A curious green-flowered Orchis (*Pterostylis*) was common in the grass. At last we found Capt Denham to whom I gave the Govⁿ letter — & had a conversation — In which I ascertained that the Herald’s cruise was not likely to be such as would suit me, as she would probably be out 8 or 9 months, with small chance of communicating during the time, & that much of her time would probably be spent out of sight of land — sounding on deep banks. So there was an end of this scheme. It was not quite dark & on our way back through the woods to the boat we were attracted by many large & very luminous fungi, which shed a broad glow of light among the grass & rotten leaves. I gathered some & found them to be Agarics (Mushrooms) 3 or 4 inches in diameter, with a flattish, wavy, pale slate colour or whitish cap, very numerous thickly set & decurrent gills, & a solid, curved & frequently eccentric stalk. The light was *very white*, like *ghost-like moonlight*¹⁴ & was so strong that I could see the time by my watch by it. I brought them home & they retained their lustre till decomposure

set in. The strongest light appeared to be when the fungus was in *its best condition* & fully grown, as neither the young nor the old was so luminous. The substance was soft & watery. I have since found the same Agaric abundant in other places. To Dr. Bennett's in the evening where I slept on the sofa, the night being wet.

8th. Called on Mr Gregory¹⁵ this morning & had a satisfactory talk about Dr Mueller, who will I expect get the app^t of Botanist to the Expedition. I then went to the Botanic Gardens & afterwards took a walk in the outer demesne to the end of a projecting point, which is called Mrs Macquarie's chair. An inscription cut in the rock declares that the road round the chair was called 'Mrs Macquarie's road' by order of Macquarie esq Governor — & that she planned it &c. By the way, this is only one of a great many inscriptions attributing deeds to the same L. Macquarie Esq who appears to have been very fond of seeing himself 'stuck up'. I gathered a few small plants in flower, including some of the smaller Orchids (*Pterostylis* & *Acianthus*) & found a solitary specimen of the remarkable fungus called *Aseroe*¹⁶ — like a Cuttle fish — (of which I have a diagram at home). It is a fine crimson colour. I have dried it & it makes a tolerable specimen — though much of its beauty is lost. I also gathered a fresh batch of luminous fungi with which I amused the folk staying at the Hotel, & who though passing the best part of their lives in the bush, had never seen the like before. The Hotel was chiefly frequented by *Squatters* as the cattle & sheep farmers are termed. They are (so far as I have seen) a frank, open-tongued but not ungentlemanly set of men — Many of them pleasant & well-informed — under an uncouth exterior often possessing many agreeable qualities. They hold their lands or 'runs' by a slender tenure from the Gov^t & many of them have 150,000 to 200 or 300,000 acres in a *run*.

9th May — A thick fog this morning — it cleared away at 9°C this morning & proved to be a bright warm day. I waited from 10 to 12°C — two mortal hours — on a Rev. Mr Boyce,¹⁷ superintendent of the Wesleyan Missions who had appointed to see me about my proposed tour in the Pacific Islands, but who did not make his appearance. So I left a note for him & then went to the Bot. Gardens where Mr Moore proposed to drive [ed. note: Fig. 1 shows the manuscript to this point] me to the *Heads* of P^r Jackson, to see a little of the Bush at this season. We went out by a road bordering the Botany Bay marshes, where Sir Joseph Banks first botanized, & returned by another road that skirts the sinuosities of Port Jackson. The latter is a most picturesque drive, abounding in beautiful views — & some of the Sydney magnates have beautiful villas large & small, along this road. We botanized in the bush, both as we went along & after we had put up the vehicle at the Inn, near the Heads. There was not much in flower — but *Epacrideae*, particularly the common *E. grandiflora* were very gay as was a bright yellow *Bossiaea* & sundry white *Leptospermums* — Among the crags by the seashore a *tropical looking thing* (*Morinda jasminoides*) was covered with bright orange berries. A green flowered Spurge Laurel (*Daphne Indicus*)¹⁸ was in flower & fruit — & a few scrubby palms (*Corypha australis*)¹⁹ were met here & there in the jungle. I filled my collecting book with one thing or another but do not consider it a profitable collection. However the day was a very pleasant one & may be marked white.

10th — I saw Mr Boyce (the Missionary) this morning & in a few words arranged with him for a passage on board the *John Wesley*²⁰ — a schooner of 236 tons, fitted up like a yacht & belonging to the Mission [being] employed in carrying supplies among their stations & conveying the Missionaries from post to post. As I am going in the next cruise you will probably like to know where we set off, & where we are going in the next cruise you will probably like to know where we set off, & where we are going & how long it will take. Know then that we propose setting out about the first of next month *June*, & expect to be 4 months among the Islands. We first go to Auckland, New Zealand where we stay only a week; — then sail for *Tonga Tibou* & visit each of the islands of that group staying a few days at each; we then go the *Fejee Islands* & visit every one of those islands in succession; then return to *Tonga* which is the *Wesleyan Metropolitan See*, & so back again to Sydney. I have seen the vessel, which is most comfortably fitted up & greatly praised by Nautical men. She was built at Southampton of Teak, cost £6000. I have a cabin to myself of fair size & there is

[illegible]

Fig. 1 continued. Part of the letter from W.H. Harvey to his sister, Hannah Todhunter.

a large public saloon. Two or three Missionaries are going down with me. My object in going is to have the opportunity of visiting some of the Coral reefs of the Pacific & possibly this may prevent my going to Sandwich & California, if I see enough to content me. *Henry Christy* procured me in London a general letter of introduction to the Wesleyan Missionaries & this is the first use I am making of it — tell him so. I should greatly prefer going to the New Hebrides or New California but the facilities are not at hand at present. The *Fejees*, at least, will I hope be good ground. You need not be afraid of the Savages, as I shall not visit any island but those where the Missionaries have established themselves, & shall not wander far from the station. My chief objects are the Coral reefs, which surround all the islands.

Having finished with Mr Boyce I called at the Museum, a building supported by Govt but not yet completed internally. The collections at present are packed up — waiting on the cabinet-makers & carpenters. One of the few curiosities at present displayed is a strange one in its way — dredged in Sydney Harbour. It is a ginger-beer bottle to the neck of which several oysters have fixed themselves & one of them has laid hold of a *tobacco pipe*, round which the shell has grown, & he holds it in a knowing attitude 'like any other gentleman'. Upstairs I spent some time looking over an extensive collection of Zoology & fossils recently made by Mr Stutchbury,²¹ the Govt Geologist, in this Colony. There is a fair collection of shells from the northern districts, including many land shells, some of which are of very large size & *eaten* by the natives. Dr Bennett having kindly invited me to make his house my home, I moved my luggage there this evening. He has been most kind to me since my arrival but had no vacant bed until this evening.

11th — I rode on horseback with Mr Moore to Botany Bay heads & back — a *bush* excursion of about 15 miles out & home. The road, a very bad one, in most places a mere track & in many a quagmire (yet a *turnpike* road!) lies through an open country covered mostly with native shrubbery — few species of which are yet in bloom. Here & there are patches & the ground is swampy — & they say, full of snakes. In the spring-time this is the great *natural garden* of Sydney famous in the writings of early explorers. On the shores of Botany Bay we lunched at the Sir Joseph Banks (sic) Hotel, a very nice Inn with a Garden of Zoological creations — birds, beasts &c in their dens or paddocks. It is a favourite summer resort of the Sydney folk & a fashionable place to spend the honey-moon. Leaving the Hotel we rode by the shores of the bay (which are sandy & covered with asteroid plants), to the headlands near the entrance where stands a monument, a small pillar erected to the memory of Laperouse,²² & near at hand the tomb of the chaplain of his ship who was buried here. This was the last spot at which the ill-fated expedition had been heard of. The tide was out & we hunted the sandstone rocks which were laid bare, but found them *very bare* indeed. In some of the shallow tidepools however I collected *Martensia elegans* (one of the pretty networks now first found here) — & I also picked a Coralline & a Conferva. Most of the rocks, however were quite barren. On our homeland ride by the bay the tide was in & in crossing the mouth of a rivulet my horse got *bogged* in a hole, & plunging forward his legs became entangled in a bed of seagrass — whereupon I got jerked off his back & soused to the middle. The horse very discreetly extricated himself & followed me on shore, & we got home without further danger. On reaching Dr Bennett's I was told to dress for the Play, as all the family were going & Dr B. had taken a ticket for me. So we went & saw Mr Brooke²³ act the Hunchback — I clapped & laughed & yawned & came home & went to bed.

12th (Saturday) Offers nothing worthy of record & 13th (Sunday) is only notable for an after dinner walk to the country house of Mr W.S. Macleay²⁴ the celebrated Entomologist & author of what is called the 'Circular system', of which (once upon a time) I was an admirer but that was 15 years ago — He has a very fine house in a beautiful park of 60 acres, all within the city of Sydney & worth £200,000 for building sites — as I was told & will not sell an inch, but rather rejoices in the notion of solitary possession — for he lives by himself save the servants — & keeps *bloodhounds* which an advertisement informs visitors

are let loose after dusk. — We arrived about dusk, but I did not see the dogs — As I must visit this place again by daylight I shall say no more than that he cultivates many rare shrubs, trees & plants & his grounds command charming prospects — We staid for tea & came home in the dark after a long chat —

14th Monday Morning — I called on the Governor, & in the evening left by Steamer for Newcastle (where I now am) & arrived at 6 o'clock next morning just before sunrise, a golden light suffusing the whole eastern sky & the thinnest thread of a moon that ever I saw. — The ship channel is very narrow & a schooner was lying partly obstructing it — so after steaming into the bay nearly to the wharf — we had to back out again & then steam out of the harbour to allow us to turn & take another channel so as to avoid the schooner! — An hour was lost at this work! — & then came a difficulty in getting lodgings, as Newcastle is not over provided with Hotels though a principal port in the Colony & the seat of a Bishop. — At one place we went to — said to be the *best hotel* the barkeeper gruffly told us the Master 'was not up & could not be disturbed' — 'When does he rise?' — 'Eight o'clock' — (looking at our watches) 'but its eight not' — 'No, its not' — (the bar clock want 1¹/₂ minutes) 'Oh, we'll gladly wait his convenience' — said Mr Moore in his blandest tone but I thought differently & determined to put up with anything rather than stay so we marched off to another house where I secured a bed in a double bedded room (with a stranger occupying the other) & Mr Moore got a sofa — The landlady however was civil & charged nothing additional for bugs, whereof I collected 3 or 4 in my two nights sojourn — For at the end of the second day we received notice to quit to admit *lady* lodgers — I shifted to my *present* quarters, a Hotel that Mr Moore so much despaired as not to look at it, but where I am now most comfortable — with a private sitting room & private bedroom & plenty of room to dry papers & a very obliging landlady 'who is very fond of curiosities' — but who does not keep so far as I yet know — any *Hemiptera* for the diversion of her lodgers. — The rooms are clean & comfortable — Newcastle you know, is the great *outlet* of the Coal district of New South Wales — & is built at the mouth of the Hunter River — the principal stream on this Coast. —

The town is prettily situated, on hills — at the south side of the River — The highest hill is crowned by the Cathedral — a plain but decent looking building — The houses are scattered over the hills none of the streets being perfectly filled up — The road ways are in a state of nature, which *at present* is like the beds of mountain torrents, where the waters have ceased — You do not meet with wheeled vehicles therefore, with the exception of drays — At the harbours mouth is a very small but high island called the *Knobby* now connected with the shore by an artificial breakwater. — A Lighthouse is to be erected on it. — The North shore is low & sandy the sea beach extending as far as the Horizon — & behind the beach along the horizon rise the highlands of Port Stephens & mountain ranges extending inland. — After paying some visits in company with Mr Moore, I left him to his official business & took a walk along the beach, to seek for sundries — I first came to a few miserable scattered *mangroves* (*Agiceras*)²⁵ which were not in flower, but were the first of the kind, which I had encountered — A good deal of drift wood & sticks & leaves & seeds were strewn along the shore & among the rubbish I got many specimens of a large *Cyclas*, or *Cyrena*, (a fresh water bivalve shell) which must have drifted a long way — as the river is salt for many miles up — No seaweeds were mixed with this drift, but after passing the Knobby & returning by the breakwater to the first strand facing the open sea, I gathered a few Algae — among them the rare *Delisia pulchra* — Next I traversed a pretty extensive flat sandstone reef with shallow tide pools — In these were growing some of the commoner fucoids particularly *Hormosira Banksii* & a *Zonaria* with *Padina Pavonia*²⁶ & *Martensia Elegans* the latter very fine & in fruit — Several corallines were common — but no trace of a *Caulerpa* & very few traces of *Laurencia* — On the whole the ground is barren — A large *Sea Squirt*, (very similar to the large one seen at Western Port) — is abundant on the rocks. Sometimes covers large spaces — The tide pools sometimes contain Urchins but always scattered — In one pool, I found a *Cuttle fish*, I think of the genus *Octopus*, different from

any I know — but I had no means of catching him & did not like to run the risk of being bitten, as he was very fierce & when I touched his back, he faced round & ran at me — coming out of the water on the bare rock — & squirted at me *water* not *ink* — in another pool, I found a living specimen of a great slug which carries on his back a shell called '*Umbrella*'. — As I was not afraid of his biting, I killed him & took his shell — I felt it however rather a murder & should have preferred preserving him in spirits had he not been too big to go into an ordinary pickle bottle — His flesh looked firm & cut crisp — & I dare say would be better than that of the limpet. He was ash coloured & covered with tubercles. —

26th At Sydney — where my address is care of Charles Moore Esq Bot. Gardens Sydney — Our vessel does not sail for the Feejees for a fortnight — we will be absent 4 months & then back to Sydney — so you had better write there any thing to arrive up to November at least — If I go north with the Governor, I shall be here till December — Tell Ruby I have not forgotten her & I mean her to have share of all the shells not wanted *for the College* — I expect to get much better shells at the Feejees Islands than I have yet collected — I shall write again in a few days —

Thine aff^y
WH Harvey

Sydney — May 29.
 1855.

My dear Gunn

Enclosed are two specimens of *Martensia elegans*, which I have found plentyfully here, but have found little else of interest & nothing new. I am now waiting here for the sailing of the '*John Wesley*' Missionary Ship in which I am about to make a cruize among the *Friendly & Feejee* Islands — touching at each island, and returning to Sydney in about 4 months. I shall thus see something of the coral formations & I hope make a fair collection — but much will of course depend on the detention at each place.

What my after doings will be, I cannot yet say. Should I return in time to join the Gov^t in a coasting tour he proposes making in Spring to all the Ports north of Sydney, I shall probably do so. If not, I shall most likely steer for New Zealand.

So far as I can ascertain, the coast here is not prolific. At Newcastle, in 10 days, I only collected 20 species of all kinds & only 2 of any interest (the *Martensia* & *Delisea pulchra*). I found Sr Wm Denison very friendly & ready to give me any assistance in his power. So also Mr Moore, the Curator of the Bot. Gardens.

I learn from Mrs. Jo. Hooker that the first sheets of the *Flora Tasmanica*²⁷ are gone to press.

With kind remembrance to Mrs. Gunn, I am very truly yours
W.H. Harvey.

The weather here is delicious. It was wet the first week after my arrival, but has been bright & clear ever since.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The librarians of the libraries of Trinity College Dublin (TCD), the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney (NML) and of the Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne have been as always most helpful with this venture. Kevin Thiele helped with the modern synonymy of Harvey's higher plants.

References

- DUCKER, S.C., 1988. — *The Contented Botanist*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.
 FISHER, L. (ed.), 1869. — *Memoirs of W.H. Harvey*. Bell & Daldy, London.
 PRAEGER, R.L., 1913. — William Henry Harvey. In: Oliver, F.W. (ed.) *Makers of British Botany*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
 WEBB, D.A., 1966. — The herbarium of Trinity College: a retrospect. *Notes Botanical School Trinity College, Dublin*. Vol. 1. 1896-1905.

NOTES

1. *Telegraph*, 5000 t. steam ship with additional sails; left Melbourne April 28 and arrived Sydney April 30 1855 with cargo of rice and flour, 14 passengers, 50 steerage passengers. *Wonga Wonga*, 750 t. steam ship with additional sails.
2. Place in Ireland.
3. Cook, Captain James Cook (1728-79) navigator, 29 April 1770 first European to enter Stingray Bay, later renamed Botany Bay.
4. *Araucaria heterophylla*.
5. Petty's Hotel on Church Hill was originally built in 1828 as a Manse for Dr. J. Lang but was bought as an hotel by Mr. Thomas Petty in 1836. The site of Petty's was the best in Sydney: high on the crown of the western ridge of Sydney Cove, it overlooked the town and the shipping in the cove. Petty's Hotel on Church Hill was run by his widow, Martha Petty, during W.H.'s visit.
6. Director Botanic Gardens; see *Contented Botanist*.
7. Dammara Lm. is a prior name for *Agathis Salisb*. Some tropical conifers yield resin. The Malay term for this was dammar.
8. *Platyserium bifurcatum* & possibly *P. superbum*.
9. Allan Cunningham; see *Contented Botanist*. Harvey alludes probably to the fact that Cunningham died of consumption, a disease so prevalent in his own family.
10. Physician; see *Contented Botanist*.
11. Allusion to Dr. E.B. Pusey (1800-1882), Regius Professor of Hebrew at Oxford, and Anglican preacher. Leader of the Oxford Revival Movement, promoted the High Church movement, founder of Anglican Sisterhood.
12. Sir William Denison (1804-1871). Governor General of New South Wales; shared with Harvey the love and knowledge of natural history, particularly Australian shells.
13. *Epacris longiflora* & *Crowea saligna*.
14. *Pleurotus nidiformis*, a luminous fungus.
15. Augustus Gregory (1819-1905). The explorer was planning at that time his northern exploring expedition and it was Harvey who convinced him to chose Ferdinand Mueller as accompanying botanist, because of his stamina and profound knowledge. Gregory and Mueller actually crossed the northern continent from the Victoria River to Brisbane.
16. *Aseroe rubra*.
17. The Reverend Boyce (1804-1889), Wesleyan minister in Sydney.
18. *Wikstromia indica*.
19. *Livistona australis*.
20. John Wesley, sailing ship belonging to the Wesleyan Methodist Mission.
21. Samuel Stutchbury (1798-1859), first Government geologist appointed in New South Wales and geological curator at the Australian Museum in Sydney.
22. J.-F. de Galaup Comte de La Pérouse (1741-1788), was the first of the French navigators who brought their sailing ships to New Holland in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries. He arrived in Sydney only a few days after the arrival of the first fleet but shortly afterwards was lost and his unknown fate prompted the search and rescue mission of D'Entrecasteaux with the *Recherche* and *Espérance*.
23. Brooke, Gustavus Vaughan (1818-66), Irish-born actor who toured Australia from 1855 to 1861.
24. Macleay, William Sharp (1792-1865), was a wealthy politician interested in the sciences; he was particularly interested in Zoology and sent natural history collectors to all parts of the continent; these collections are now part of the Australian Museum in Sydney of which he was a trustee.
25. *Aegiceras corniculatum*.
26. *Padina fraseri*.
27. *Flora Tasmaniae* is the third part of *The Botany of the Antarctic Voyage* by J.D. Hooker. It was published from 1855-59 and is dedicated to Ronald Campbell Gunn, F.R.S., F.L.S., and William Archer, F.L.S. The second volume contains the algae by W.H. Harvey.